Mat-Su Monitor

April 2012

Signs of Development

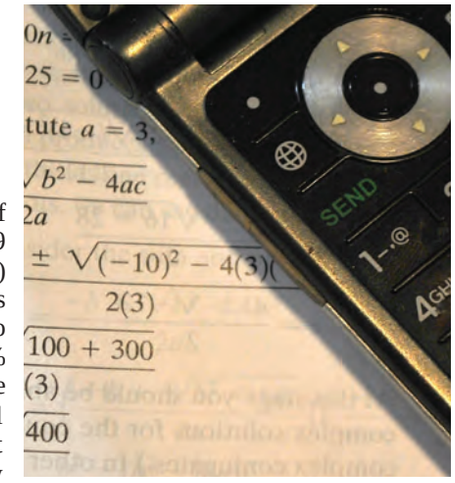
The new sign at the intersection of Trunk Road and College Drive informs passersby of the the time and temperature as well as college updates.

Texting in Class

By Robert Rootes

According to the US Department of Transportation, from roughly 2009 to 2011, over 1/3 of drivers (37%) have sent or received text messages while driving, and 18% said they do it regularly. Teenagers make up 10% of their time behind the wheel outside their designated lane because of cell phone distractions. “Over 60 percent of American teens admit to risky driving, and nearly half of those that admit to risky driving also admit to text messaging behind the wheel.

In addition, 75% of US drivers ages 18 to 29 reported that they talked on their cell phone while driving at least once in the past 30 days, and nearly 40% reported that they talk on their cell phone ‘regularly’ or ‘fairly often’ while driving. About 6,000 deaths and



a half a million injuries are caused by distracted drivers every year.”

Despite Alaska’s ban on texting while driving, it doesn’t stop most Alaskans. Many times, 9 out of 10 drivers are usually negotiating their driving one-handed while holding a cell phone with the other hand.

» See Texting **Page 6**

Mat-Su Student Opens Local Business

By Justin Edwards

Czar of Guitars is a quaint little shop located in downtown Palmer, but don’t let the size fool you. This shop has a high quality selection of guitars and offers professional repair service for guitars in need. Rob Czarnezki is the owner and manager of Czar of Guitars, and he offers complete hospitality to every person who enters his store.

Rob Czarnezki owns Czar of Guitars in Palmer

Upon entering, Czarnezki shook my hand and began giving me a tour of the place. He then showed me an impressively efficient back area utilized for guitar repair and organizing customer data.

When I asked Mr. Czarnezki about his experience with guitars, he told

» See Czar of Guitars **Page 3**

Let The Games Begin

By Robert Rootes

If you happen to be at the Mat-Su College on Thursdays at 2:30 to 4:00 P.M., take the time to come join in medieval combat in the far end of the main parking lot. Officially recognized as the Medieval Combat Club by the Student Government at Mat-Su, this no-holds-barred hand-to-hand warfare is entertaining and a great form of bona fide exercise.

Founded by Mat-Su student Luke Warta, the Medieval Combat Club uses foam constructed weaponry that is authentic to medieval times. The foam padding prevents serious physical injuries. “Pad the weapon, not the people,” Warta says of the activity. Recreating medieval weaponry is something Warta has been doing for years. Excited with the prospect of further interested members, Warta encourages interested parties to show up dressed for battle. Donned in tunics and gambesons, with plans of soon acquiring pauldrons, spaulders, and gauntlets, these real life players are faithful to the medieval style of fighting.

Warta makes most of the weapons

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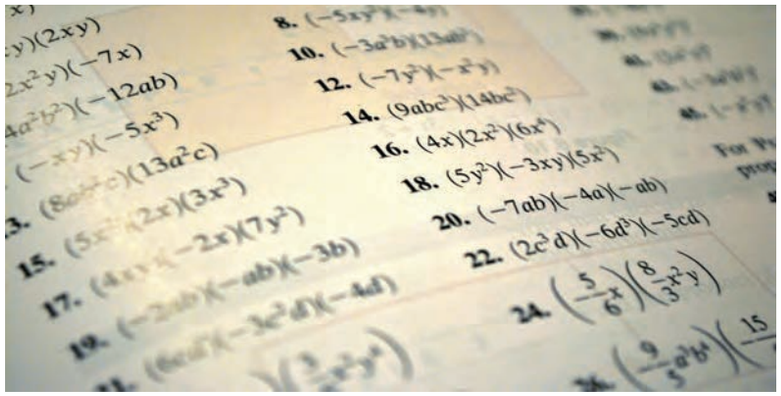

Math Club Update

By Jake Magoon

Yes, it's true that math club in Snodgrass 103 IS the place to go if you'd like a quiet spot to do math. It is also true that it is one of the best places to get help from mathematics professor P.T. Chang and any other number of students who will be eager to teach you new math you might like to know, as well as help with your homework.

But, math club is also about FOOD! You may have heard of our love for delicious pizzas in the past. But coming soon, we'll be branching out into another realm of American culinary favorites.

Keep your ears open and your eyes peeled, next semester Math Club is going to be hosting a chili cook-off! If you think your recipe is the best there ever was, speak with myself or Mathew Carrick, and we'll give you a chance to put your chili where your mouth is.

Mat-Su Monitor

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Czar of Guitars

Continued from page 1

me a brief story of when he had started out working in a guitar shop. It was during his first year in college, in Wisconsin. At the time, he was a full time student and only worked part time in the shop. It didn't take long for Rob to discover his passion for guitars, and soon he started working full time in the guitar shop and going to school part time. Most recently, Czarnezki has taken classes at Mat-Su College.

His interest in working with guitars had eventually become the focus of his life work. Czarnezki has been trained as a luthier, which is someone who makes or repairs string instruments. He has repaired many guitars and even built some from scratch, or as he put it "from a stack of wood."

For a picture, he pulled out a beautiful handmade guitar that he initially planned to be a prototype for other guitars he intended to make. Unfortunately, hand craftsmanship can't compete with the production guitars produced by factories. Czarnezki says that he'd "make more money per hour as a Wal-Mart greater" than he would hand making guitars.

Like any good guitar shop, Czar of Guitars has several pictures of famous musicians—many of them autographed.

One picture, which Czarnezki took, shows Keith Richards and others partying around a small coffee table. Although it may be a stretch to say that he paled around with Keith Richards, Czarnezki has spent time playing guitar in various bands, one of which was nominated for a Grammy.

Czarnezki has owned and operated Czar of Guitars since 2008, and he will have been open for four years in October. As a small business owner, Mr. Czarnezki advises to "Be yourself" and "Open your doors." He also mentioned that operating a business has its ups and downs, but it certainly has a worthwhile payoff. He didn't envision himself where he is now when he was young, but very much enjoys his work.

Services offered by Czar of Guitars include professional and thorough guitar repair, as well as the nicely stocked selection of instruments for sale. Another service offered is the opportunity to take one-on-one music lessons. These lessons are taught by Forrest Wilson, who is very knowledgeable in various guitar styles, and has even received a Hornsby Island Award, in British

» See Guitars **Page 15**

Czar of Guitars is located downtown Palmer at the intersection of the Old Glenn highway and Alaska Street.

Profile: Denise Reeve

By Hattie Schmidtkunz

Denise Reeve is currently in the position of student government president. Denise is also vice president of Phi Theta Kappa and founder of two clubs, the Mat-Su Metl Hedz and Veterinary Assist Club.

How did you become involved in student government?

I was in an art class and Suzanne Bach came in and asked if anyone would like to be a part of team art. So I said sure, I'll go. When I was there, they said they needed a vice-president. So then all of a sudden I was vice-president of Team Art, which was a great deal of fun. Then I became present of Team Art, which was fun as well. I trained my replacement so another person would have a chance to be president because I believe everybody should have a chance to learn about leadership, that's huge for me.

How did you get in the position of president?

Two presidents resigned and a vice-president moved up and selected me for vice-president. Then, he had to resign. In the interest of continuity of student government, I was willing to do that.

What do you like about your position?

I like the people who work in student government a lot. I like the challenge of finding solutions. There's lots of issues that come up and usually when people come to the table they have one idea to solve that problem. Five other people have a different idea and between them they come up with an even better idea than any of them brought.

For this to happen in student government, the executive officers have to be listening. You walk in the door willing to listen to what the students have to say and what matters to them. There's some people who are more outgoing and easy to hear and others who are more soft spoken. In that case you only get one view point. If you talk to the people who are a little more shy you can hear their concerns in addition. Sometimes those are the people who have really great ideas and just need to be heard.

Reeve with a friend. She has had a life long love of birds and is a parrot owner.

How long have you been president?

Since the end of January of this year.

What are you proud of accomplishing here at the college?

I'm proud of being a member and vice-president of Phi Theta Kappa. I'm really proud of the clubs that I've been affiliated with, as founder of the Metal Hedz and founder of the Veterinary Assist Club. Metal Hedz did their first metal art show in December. That was the team, that wasn't me, but that's what I'm proud of.

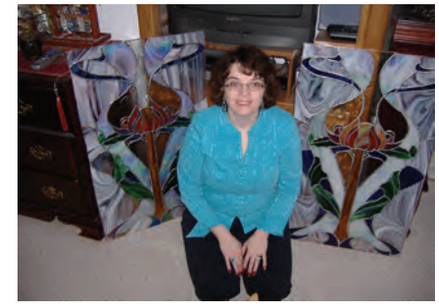
The Veterinary Assist Club did a hematology workshop on campus available to the entire veterinary community. That was again was a team effort. I graduated in 2010 with an occupational endorsement certificate from the veterinary assist program. That was a huge and fun moment for me. That was the very first graduating class from that program. We all wore really big fun fabulous animal earrings.

What are some projects you would like to work on?

We're working on taking the vet assist program to a 2 year degree program. I want always want to be here doing metal smiting. I am on target to graduate in spring 2013 with an associate of arts.

What projects are you working on right now that you're excited about?

Student government is huge, there's always something new coming in. I never stop doing art, art is huge for me. I'm working on becoming a licensed veterinary technician. It takes working for 2000 hours and then the testing, so I have some studying to do for that. I always like to go for whatever award is available. I try to do my very best.



I am very fond of Mary Kay Ash. I met her through Mary Kay cosmetics. I was in Mary Kay sales for 12 years. Mary Kay looked at me and held my hand and looked in my eyes and said "This one's special. She's going to be very successful." I thought wow, here's a woman who knows tens of thousands of women and she's a role model for single moms to succeed in a world that wasn't all that great for women at the time.

She always said if you shoot for the moon, you'll land among the stars. I like her philosophy a lot. Meeting her was an amazing experience. That's what we have to give as people to each other, to give that positive inspiration to succeed.

What are some things you like to do for fun?

I like to shop. I love metal smithing. I like animals. I like gemstones, if its shiny, I like it. I've never met a bird I didn't like. We have tiny little dogs and huge birds, mostly macaws. I love art, any form of art.

Is there anything you would like to add?

A lot of people don't know I was a travel agent for 25 years. I've been all over the world. I've been to South America, the Orient, Africa, the Galapagos Islands, I tried to see as much of the United States as I could. When I was 22 years old I made a list of 100 things to do before I die.

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Join the Mad Dictators and Democracies Club

The Mad Dictators and Democracies Club meets each Wednesday at 1:00 P.M. in the library

By Keeland Mangus

Last week I showed up on campus and, as usual, headed to the library. Upon arriving at our meeting, I was greeted by friends, at which point we then set about the usual business, and began discussing a wide array of topics: from how the economy is messed up, to government surveillance, to why German scientists are always preferable to German artists.

This isn't going to hang out after class or simple fooling around, but the Mad Dictators and Democracies Club! Each Wednesday at one o'clock we gather in the library and talk about things like the shenanigans of Vladimir Putin, Prime Minister of Russia, how the frighteningly Orwellian way in which our society appears to be trending, and, of course, Mayan foreign policy regarding the end of the world.

Don't know very much, or anything, about politics? Neither did Genghis Khan or Napoleon Bonaparte when they started. However, before you can begin your dictatorial rise, you must first rise up the library stairs to room 213.

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Texting

Continued from page 1

Last year, a Wilkes University study revealed that 91% of the students text while in class. Out of that shocking statistic more was exposed:

•99 percent of students think they should be allowed to have their cell phones in class

•95 percent bring phones to the classroom

•62 percent believe texting should be allowed in class, provided it doesn't distract others

•Around 10 percent have sent or received texts during exams

•3 percent used texts to cheat during exams

How do you compare texting while driving with texting in class? Both are a danger, one to life, the other to life choices. In syllabi across the Mat-Su College campus, there is a notice about classroom etiquette and behavior. Addressed directly: "texting and cell phone conversations are not permitted in class," it is a simple concept. Yahoo!

62% of college students belive that texting should be allowed in class

Answers has a collection of student included ways to hide texting in class. Facebook carries a page for peers to share the pros and cons of texting in class—and how to get away with it.

Speaking to the faculty on campus, I was surprised to get a mixed view about the problem. It wasn't that staff is either for or against cell phone use in class; it just seems that some are reluctant to talk about the problem. Students may attend class; however, their attention isn't focused on the lecture or the instructors. Often individuals using texting features during class become distractions to other students. Students willing to put forth an effort to receive the education they are paying for, and want to attend class without diversion, frequently have to abide with their peers texting and not taking their education seriously.

Mat-Su College administration leaves it open to individual faculty as to how they handle classroom policies. Some fulltime faculty are stern about the "no texting" policy they apply to their education standards; and these teachers will go so far as to direct a student out of class if they are texting. Speaking to adjunct educators and fulltime faculty is where a line has been drawn. Some adjunct staff simply (and apologetically) shrug-off the matter. Though a cursory referral to the syllabus is given, it is obvious students ignore the policy.

Dr. Debi Fox of the Mat-Su College English Department made an important observation on the issue. She stands behind the "no texting" policy in class. Dr. Fox also commented that it was possible that adjunct faculty feel as if they don't have the authority to make demands on the students. It's possible their positions could be challenged if they address too many students about the policy. Mat-Su College administration will stand behind its educators making appropriate decisions regarding classroom behavior and etiquette.

Another adjunct instructor said cell phone use in classrooms should be prohibited; that, like on an airplane, it should be shut off.

Laptop computers could also be part of the issue because if an educator decides to ban one form of electronic technology, why not the other? Personally, I habitually use a laptop for note taking and 'paperless' textbooks. How do you differentiate between educated notes and frivolity?

Ultimately, it comes down to the student body. While walking through the hallways at the Mat-Su College, one notices certain things. Ninety-nine percent of the students have a cell phone in their hands, juggling the tiny lifeline with backpacks or stacks of books. Even when it's not being used for texting or talking, students carry the handheld devices in their hands. Having experience with drug and alcohol dependants, I can make this educated statement: texting is an addiction.

During this casual meandering I happened to catch a conversation between students of the ages 18 to 20. One female student in the group rattled off lists of "teachers" that she isn't worried about when it comes to texting in class. A name among these educators stood out and caused some shock to me. That educator named was "PT." How does this obvious lack of respect reflect on our college? Our prominent educators?

Further, this student volunteered the information that her mother was a teacher at Mat-Su College as well as a 7th grade teacher. The student further stated that she didn't care what her mother thought about her texting in class. She stated that this teacher felt that texting in class was OK among students getting good grades; however, she frowned on students that text in class who are failing.

This flagrant disregard among "texters" is a cultural phenomenon. Like addicts, the selfish fix is more important than the people around them. When we talk about the rights of students, specifically students that text openly and notoriously in the classroom setting, we run the risk of fostering disrespect they have come to expect.

MSC Library Movie Collection

By Stephen Warta

Matanuska Susitna College has an Academic Library open to the public. One of the more popular resources that it has available is a movie collection of over 3500 movies. These movies range from academic to entertainment.

The primary amount of funding for movies that the library receives from the college is laid out towards academic visual materials. The library has an impressive collection of academic movies that cover history, science, math, music, and language. One of the things that the history collection has is an extensive People's Century collect that spans World History from 1900-1999.

In addition to these academic media materials, the library has a modest collection of entertainment movies that cover all of the genres of entertainment. This collection contains some older as well as more recent films, and the library also owns Blu-ray DVDs.

One unique thing about the libraries media collection is that it contains video games that are donated by generous patrons. Any of these moves are available for the public and can be checked out for free. This can mean substantial savings, as one can get a movie without paying exorbitant movie rental fees.

If someone is looking for a movie that is not available at the MSC library, you can place a hold on movies at the Loussac library system or the UAA library system. These movies will be transported via carrier to the MSC library where patrons can pick them up.

The library's entertainment part of their collection is furnished primarily by donations. Patrons have been generous in donations in both entertainment and video games to the library, and the library is always more than willing to accept additional donations.

The library is an invaluable comm-unity resource and opens its door to students as well as to the public. Although its media collection is somewhat limited, if there is material one wants that is not at the library, one can place holds through the library catalog and the library has the ability to draw on resources from other libraries.

Mat-Su Gay-Straight Alliance Update

By Jeff Frick

Alaska was the first state to pass a law in its constitution stating marriage as only between a man and a woman. This makes it illegal for same sex couples to marry. By gay marriage being illegal, gay couples are in fact being denied religious freedom.

Civil Marriages and Religious marriages are separate institutions. The main reason for denying marriage to gay couples is that most religions consider homosexuality a sin. The First Amendment of the United States Constitution clearly states that a person's religious views, or lack thereof, must be protected.

Same sex couples are denied marriage benefits that straight couples already have. A few of those are joint ownership and medical decision making. If one member of a gay couple that has been together for 20 years gets critically ill, visitation may not even be allowed since the other isn't considered a "spouse or immediate family member."

In addition, denying these marriages is a form of minority discrimination. America was founded on the concept that the majority should rule, but the rights of minorities should be protected. It is the main reason we have the Bill of Rights as well as anti-slavery and equal protection amendments.

Denying marriage to a homosexual couple is no different than denying marriage to Hispanic or black couples. These reasons lend a strong argument to the notion, one that we at the Mat-Su Gay-Straight Alliance support, that the Alaska State Constitution should be amended to abolish this form of discrimination.

Mat-Su College Sports Beat

By Stephen Warta

Currently, the Arctic Dragons Basketball team is the only official MSC sports team; although there is rumor of a couple of other sports starting up, including soccer and women's rugby.

If you frequent the campus regularly, you have probably seen the Arctic Dragons Basketball team Skills Assessment advertisement on the various media boards. The first one was on March 30th, and the second one will be on April 13th at the AT&T Sports Center at 6:30 PM. Any current MSC student is welcome to join the team.

The team had been without a coach, and as such had been waning for the past two years. This all changed one month ago, when the team was finally able to recruit a coach.

In a promotional effort, the team began to advertise aggressively in hopes of increasing public awareness of its existence. Its effort paid off with modest attendance at the March 30th Skills Assessment. Chaz Lyons, a long time team member, voiced hopes for an even better turnout on April 13th.

In the past, the Arctic Dragons have played basketball at the AT&T sports center in the local league. Unfortunately, due to budgetary constraints, the team was unable to play in the spring tournament, but it has plans of participating in the fall tournament.

During the lapse between seasons, the team has not been idle. They have plans to continue practice during the remaining weeks of the spring semester and during the summer in hopes of preparing themselves for carrying the fall tournament.

For questions concerning the team, contact Cody Lyons at (907) 354-1640 or ask for Micah at the MSC Alvin Okeson Library.

To learn more about Mat-Su College basketball, contact Cody Lyons at (907)345-1640 or speak with Micah at the Alvin Okeson Library

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Saturday June 2

ALL DAY CLASSES 9:00am-4:00pm

Joy of Water Media
Beginning & Intermediate 15 students maximum
Price: $50 + $12 Materials Fee (includes basic supplies—you may bring additional supplies you have as well)
Judi Betts of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, author and teacher worldwide, presents an innovative course in watercolor and acrylics on paper, for all skill levels, exploring the traditional handling of composition and color. Students will have an opportunity to develop their own unique expression and style.

Oil Painting
Beginning & Intermediate 9 students maximum
Price: $50 + $35 Materials Fee (includes basic supplies—you may bring additional supplies you have as well)
Talkeetna artist Tony Crocetto presents a basic academic approach for beginning and intermediate students through the use of a simple still life and a limited color palette. Emphasis will be on "seeing" the light and dark values and special relationships of the subject matter, as well as brush handling and paint manipulation. Class period will include time for a full instructor demo as well as up to two finished 16"x20" value studies completed by the students.

Relief Block Carving
Beginning & Intermediate 12 students maximum
Price: $50 + $12 Materials Fee (includes all supplies)
Taught by Gary Kaulitz, UAA Art Professor, this course will investigate the process of carving and printing relief linoleum blocks. Consideration will be given to developing an image, transferring image to the block and instruction in safe carving practices. Once the image is cut the student will learn various methods of printing the image on paper. The morning session will concentrate on image development and carving techniques and the afternoon session will be devoted to printing.

ALL DAY CLASSES 9:00am-4:00pm

Drawing to Paint
Intermediate 18 students maximum
Price: $50 + $12 Materials Fee (includes all supplies—bring a sketchbook for note taking 5"x8" or larger)
Nationally recognized valley artist, Gail Niebrugge, will share her expertise in this intermediate skill level drawing class, where students will learn to create tonal drawings, using the gray scale, and employing a variety of techniques that will enhance artists who work in any media to improve their finished product.

Introduction to Watercolor
No experience needed 12 students maximum
Price: $50 + $20 Materials Fee (includes all supplies—bring a sketchbook for note taking 5"x8" or larger)
If the fact that the fuzzy end of the brush goes into the paint is a revelation to you, then this is the introductory level class that you have been searching for. This is a low key, beginning cla ss that is designed to simply open the door to watercolor painting and allow you to have a go at it with no expectations hanging over your head. Fairbanks artist Tom Nixon has taught this subject for nearly a decade with positive results.

Basic Sumi-e` Techniques
No experience needed 15 students maximum
Price: $50 + $5 Materials Fee (includes all supplies)
Jean Shadrach, has taught oriental painting for many years. This is a hands on opportunity to learn this very relaxing art form, using the basic Sumi-e` (ink) and bamboo brush on rice paper. The techniques will be explained as useful for artists who work in watercolor, oils, acrylics and ceramics.

ALL DAY CLASSES 9:00am-4:00pm

Glass Glob Terra Cotta Pots
No experience needed 12 students maximum
Price: $50 + $15 Materials Fee (includes all supplies)
Karen Urroz, a stained glass artist and instructor at Mat-Su College, presents a beginning level workshop. Learn decorative glass glob gluing on "one of a kind" terra cotta pots. Produce memorable art pieces with grouting and finishing techniques learned in this workshop.

Discovering the Magic of Embossing
No experience needed 12 students maximum
Price: $50 + $5 Materials Fee (includes all supplies)
Under the instruction of Anchorage embossing artist, Marianne Wieland, students will create their design by means of collage, as they glue items onto the printing plate; next is soaking and blotting the paper and running the prints through the press to show off the raised surfaces.

Intermediate Watercolor
Intermediate and Advanced 12 students maximum
Price: $50 — Note: Early registration is required so that materials list can be provided.
Vladimir Zhikhartsev will demonstrate European-Russian style painting and encourage students to paint in a loose confident style. This workshop is tailored for painters with some watercolor experience.

Half day class $25* • All day class $50*

* Cost of class does not include materials.

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MORNING CLASSES 9:00am-12:00pm

Silk Painting Using Resist
No experience needed 10 students maximum
Price: $25 + $5 Materials Fee (includes all supplies)
This is an entry level silk painting class with internationally recognized artist Francine Dufour Jones. In the morning class we will use resist to form lines. We will be painting within the boundaries of shapes formed with the resist.

Draw Stick Figures and More
No experience needed 18 students maximum
Price: $25 + $10 Materials Fee (includes all supplies)
If you say you can't draw a stick figure, well this class is for you! Have a fun time learning to express the human form, using basic shapes, working with proportions, and stimulating your imagination. You will leave with drawings to show your friends and family the hidden artist within even you. Possibly launching your art career, or just good for a few laughs! Taught by Don Kolstad.

Bringing Animals to Life in Pastels
No experience needed 10 students maximum
Price: $25 + $12 Materials Fee (includes all supplies—you may bring additional supplies you have as well)
In this three hour morning class, Judi Rideout, prestigious Valley artist whose work has appeared in national magazines, will teach methods in pastels for completion of a domestic animal or wildlife artwork on suede mat board. Bring an image that you would like to draw. This is an introductory class, but all levels are welcome.

Athabascan Beadwork
No experience needed 8 students maximum
Price: $25 (all materials will be provided)
Delores Sloan originally from Ft. Yukon carries on the tradition of Athabascan beading. Learn techniques from one of the best. Delores will teach a small project of your choice such as a key bob, ornament, or pin on moose hide.

Get the Most Out of Digital
No experience needed 25 students maximum
Price: $25 + $10 Materials Fee (includes all supplies)
Kevin Smith teaches this entry level class. You will learn to get the most out of Digital Point and Shoot or Digital SLR. Bring your digital camera and manual. Students will shoot photos indoor and/or outdoors. This class is useful if continuing in the afternoon class.

Hands-on Interior Design
No experience needed 12 students maximum
Price: $25 + $10 Materials Fee (includes all supplies)
Tiffany Staples, ASID certified and current instructor at Mat-Su College, will guide the students through successfully applying color and space planning for the home; also learning what trends work best in an Alaskan setting. Bring scissors and scotch tape and if you like, dimensions and floor plan sketch or drawing of a room you are considering.

AFTERNOON CLASSES 1:00pm-4:00pm

Silk Painting Using Creative Techniques
No experience needed 10 students maximum
Price: $25 + $5 Materials Fee (includes all supplies)
This is an entry level class. This class will explore a variety of creative techniques. This class will use free form techniques that allow the silk and the dyes to blend in a more natural and organic fashion. You will go home with a silk piece of your own creation ready to be framed.

Draw Stick Figures and More
No experience needed 18 students maximum
Price: $25 + $10 Materials Fee (includes all supplies)
Repeat of morning class.
If you say you can't draw a stick figure, well this class is for you! Have a fun time learning to express the human form, using basic shapes, working with proportions, and stimulating your imagination. You will leave with drawings to show your friends and family the hidden artist within even you. Possibly launching your art career, or just good for a few laughs! Taught by Don Kolstad.

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Price: $25 (all materials will be provided)
Repeat of morning class.
Delores Sloan originally from Ft. Yukon carries on the tradition of Athabascan beading. Learn techniques from one of the best. Delores will teach a small project of your choice such as a key bob, ornament, or pin on moose hide.

Processing in Camera Raw
Intermediate to Advanced 18 students maximum
Price: $25 (no materials fee)
This class will include intermediate to advanced level instruction. Bring Raw images for manipulation. Bring Flash Drive or CD and Card Reader. Learn Manipulation in Camera Raw on PhotoShop 5 computer software. Taught by Kevin Smith.

Hands-on Interior Design
No experience needed 12 students maximum
Price: $25 + $10 Materials Fee (includes all supplies)
Repeat of morning class.
Tiffany Staples, ASID certified and current instructor at Mat-Su College, will guide the students through successfully applying color and space planning for the home; also learning what trends work best in an Alaskan setting. Bring scissors and scotch tape and if you like, dimensions and floor plan sketch or drawing of a room you are considering.

All classes will be held on the Mat-Su College campus.

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Games

Continued from page 1

weight, look and feel of the armaments used in the Middle Ages without the fear of loss of limbs or the accidental maiming. From shields, baselards, great swords, quarter staffs to maces, misericordes, 8-foots 2-handed glaives, and long bows with real arrows, these fighters are out for the preverbal blood!

There are rules to combat that are strictly enforced. Individuals that don't follow these rules are not welcome to attend further games. "There's nothing like the feeling of beating up someone with an authentic weapon." Warta has researched and designed the weapons accurately with safety concerns in the overall plan. Weighted and foam coated, these painted lances and swords might look like a Nerf toy, but have a real force behind the wielded blow.

As soon as more members join, Medieval Combat Club will expand to more days of the week. For now, the modest members are jovial to battle in any weather. Often slush-covered and bruised, these new-age warriors are proud to storm the halls of Mat-Su and battle for glory!

The Medieval Combat Club engages in mock battle in the Mat-Su College parking lot. They meet every Thursday from 2:30 to 4:00 P.M. in the parking lot.

Parasites and The Hidden Food Web

By Mathew Carrick

The first introduction to ecology that most of us get is the food chain. Shark eats small fish, small fish eats shrimp, shrimp eats plankton, and plankton photosynthesizes.

Later, we are told that this is a gross oversimplification: it's less of a food chain and more of a food web. The line is thrown out in favor of something more like a flowchart. Perhaps scavengers and bacteria augment the pattern: even the top predator gets eaten when it's dead.

The effect of parasitism is more obscure. (Here I will pause to give a note of consolation to my squeamish readers – there will be no detail of lifestyle here, merely general concepts. Read on!) When a parasite enters a host, it will necessarily alter the well-being of its unwilling home. Imagine a fish that has been infected by some sort of worm. This worm will wear down on the fish; it will make the creature weaker, less able to escape from potential predation, and therefore more likely to be consumed.

If you are familiar with parasitic life cycles, the logic of this is readily apparent. When a typical parasite infects a host, it must be ingested, intact, by a certain predator of that host before it may reproduce. Of course, the final host's health will also be impaired.

How does the illness that results from parasitism manifest itself in the food web? Clearly, infected prey species will be eaten more frequently, and infected predator species may be more inept at catching food.

This effect could be called the hidden food web: you (usually) cannot see a parasite without opening its host with a scalpel, and so it is generally difficult to determine exactly what effect parasitism has on the food web. Yet, despite its occult nature, the effect obviously exists: how could giving a particular species an unfair disadvantage fail to change the food web's structure? What, exactly, is the affect that these parasites have on ecology? How much of the global food web is determined by the existence of tapeworms, copepods, trypanosomes?

Even more difficult to fully explore – and, to my mind, more disturbing – is the fact that parasites affect behavior to make intermediate hosts easy to eat. Many parasites are traveling pharmacists, carrying about with them the capacity to produce a wide variety of behavior-altering chemicals.

Lafferty and Morris studied killifish in California salt marshes, and found that killifish infected by the fluke Euhaplorchis californiensis were more likely than healthy fish to exhibit "surfacing, flashing, contorting, shimmying, and jerking." These behaviors, of course, make killifish noticeable, and thus susceptible to attacks from birds of prey!

> "Parasites affect behavior to make hosts easy to eat"

Living closer to home, Toxoplasma gondii is also one of the most fascinating parasites. It has a two-species life cycle, in which it begins life in a rat and ends life in a domestic house cat. Scientists examined the parasites life cycle and arrived at a shocking conclusion: T. gondii explicitly influences rat behavior to make its host rodent unafraid of cats and unlikely to escape predation. In extreme cases, the rat is actually attracted to cats!

How widespread is this behavior? Research suggests it is quite common. The ecological possibilities are endless: are there species that depend on parasite-infected, and therefore easily caught, food to eat and sustain their numbers, albeit at the cost of good health? How many species have their numbers excessively limited because a worm hands them over to a predator early?

Until this point, my article has been unfairly monopolized by those parasites which live in or on their hosts: the tapeworms, protozoans, and others whose images are typically conjured up by the word "parasite." There are, however, other forms of parasitism. "Kleptoparasites" (from the Greek kleptein, meaning to steal), for instance, do not live in or on an animal, instead waiting around until the "host" (perhaps more aptly labeled a "victim") locates some food, then harassing the poor animal into forfeiting its meal. Gulls are perhaps the most notable examples.

Not all incidences of kleptoparasitism occur in birds, however: insects, spiders, mammals, and others partake as well. How could this affect the food web? It is more readily apparent than other forms of parasitism, and is not as dramatic or bone-chilling, but it has influence nonetheless. The mind cannot help but wonder how many times "X steals from Y" should have been noted next to "A eats B" in our middle school food webs.

Parasitism is relevant to society in many ways, principally in the medical field. It is also ubiquitous in other biological contexts, ones that are not so inextricably linked with humanity's health.

As is apparent from the deleterious effects on host health, behavioral modification, kleptoparasitism, and countless other examples that we do not have sufficient time to explore, parasites are a greater factor in our lives than most of us think. Their effects on the food web are far-reaching, yet almost completely invisible. They add an extra dimension to predator-prey interactions, forming their very own hidden food web.

The Mat-Su Monitor would like to thank the Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman for all of their support. Call (907) 352-2250 to learn about home delivery.

Reeve

Continued from page 4

How many things have you checked off?

A ton! A lot of them are places, experiences, try this, do this, eat this. I add things on if I try something new. I tried parasailing in Thailand. I would have never picked to do that but I was

with a group of people who where going to do it and I didn't want to miss out on it! My list gets me up every day. I work on one thing at a time. One of my goals was to work with very large parrots. I got to do that. Another thing was to get a degree.

What are some more of your life goals?

I am married so my number one goal is to be a successful partner. I have a personal idea of who I am and I want to maintain that through everything I do. I believe in fairness, I believe that everybody's important. I am very driven.

My husband and I have a library and we have over 7,000 books. My goal is to read that 7,000 and more because I believe we can find lots of good things in books. I would like to take my dad to Australia. This summer we are going to do a motorcycle ride through the Redwoods. I look for moments where we can have great joy, I'm forever seeking great joy and happiness.

The Mat-Su Monitor

The Student Newspaper of Matanuska- Susitna College

Ad pricing sheet	**B&W**	**Full Color**
1/8 page 5" wide x 2.5" tall 2.5" wide x 5" tall	$75	$125
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Benefits to advertising in the Mat-Su Monitor

- Advertising in the Monitor is VERY inexpensive.
- Approximately 5000 copies of the Monitor are distributed as an insert in the Valley Frontiersman.
- Approximately 1000 copies are distributed for free around the Mat-Su College campus and around the community in coffee shops and other such venues.

Contact Information

Pete Praetorius (faculty advisor)
Email: pfpwp@matsu.alaska.edu
Phone: 745-9728

Guitars

Continued from page 1

Colombia, for his musical talent.

Czar of Guitars is a good place to get information on the best gear to compliment your style. When I mentioned a small production brand of guitar called Seagull to Mr. Czarnezki, he was readily able to provide a catalogue of Seagull Guitars and provided examples of famous artists who play the guitar.

It is a habit of his to happily extend his knowledge of the instruments and equipment to any who may ask. Czarnezki is also active in the community and enjoys putting together different kinds of local music events.

In my own experience with the guitar repair at Czar of Guitars, I took in my beloved Taylor guitar for a tune-up. Not only was the job professionally done, but Czarnezki provided a discount, which left me very happy and impressed with his shop and services.

When it came time to visit Czar of Guitars again, a travel sized Martin guitar had caught my eye. Czarnezki then proceed to give me a back story and some reviews about the guitar, which made me very confident and pleased in my decision to purchase the instrument.

Restaurant Review: Lil' Pea's BBQ Pub and Grill

By Jake Magoon

I first heard of the opening of a new Hawaiian Barbeque restaurant here in Wasilla from fellow Mat-Su student Nick Ciccarelli. As it turned out, Nick and his wife Renee went in to business together, and together are now operating Lil' Pea's, located at 300 Swanson Ave., Wasilla.

The Hawaiian born daughter of a five-star chef, Renee's family heritage of culinary expertise was thankfully on full display the day I came to eat. High-school sweethearts, Nick and Renee have been married since they were teenagers, and, if you ask him, I'm sure he will be happy to tell you of his being fed delicious morsels in his youth thanks to her background.

Upon walking in to Lil' Pea's, I was struck by two things more than any other: first, the ambiance of the restaurant is very warm, very comfortable, and very welcoming. I myself have worked in family-owned restaurants in the past and the atmosphere in Lil' Pea's reminded me of everything small restaurants do right. Second, I was hit with the powerful aroma of food being prepared.

Due to my arrival at a less-busy time of the day, I was treated to a tour of the kitchen. Clean and tidy, I was offered a taste of their whipped cream, made with real vanilla bean, and judging by the taste, a worthy investment.

After my tour, I sat down and had a chat with Nick as I perused the menu. Nick was happy to explain to me that they make their own ground beef in house via grinding top sirloin and adding fat to arrive at their desired ratio, and how, perhaps partially as a result of this, they have won the Alaska State Fair 1st place cheeseburger with their Hawaiian cheeseburger!

In addition, their crab stuffed mushroom won the people's choice. The meals are reasonably priced, at $10-$15 per entrée, and are friendly to hCG diets and those who are sugar/salt conscious. Opened for no more than four months, the smells and Nick's promotion were making me eager to see how the food actually tasted.

The decisions I had to make were certainly not easy. For the appetizer, I decided to save the crab stuffed mushrooms for my next visit, and I went with the beef lumpia. The easiest way to describe this dish is that you receive two dipping sauces, a sweet and sour and a teriyaki, and four beef and vegetable stuffed egg-roll type items.

The food was served hot and quickly, and the interplay between the beef, wrapping, and sauces was finely crafted. I received a side of sugar and cinnamon sprinkled sweet potato fries with a little cup of their whipped cream for dipping (as good as it sounds), and my entrée was the Kahlua pig plate. The Kahlua pig plate consisted of shredded pork served on two scoops of rice, and thoroughly satisfied my need for salt and starch.

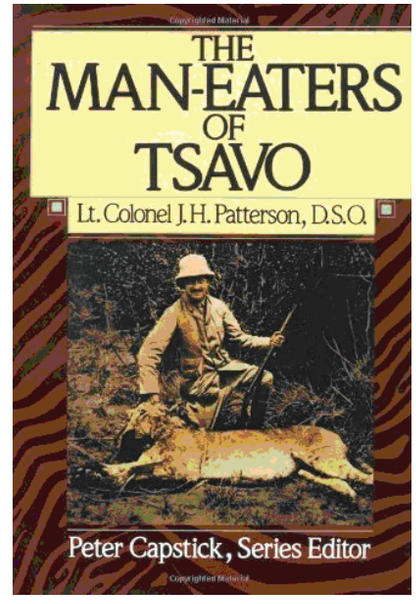
Finally, for dessert, I had the baked kabob, which consisted of two kabobs with pineapple and strawberries, drizzled with honey and basted in their own juices as they baked, and then sprinkled with crushed macadamia nuts, more honey, and, of course, their signature whip cream was provided.

It was really, really good. All in all, the food itself was great, for a great price, in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. I recommend it!

Book Review: The Man-Eaters of Tsavo

By Stephen Warta

There exists a prominent place in popular reading for hunting stories. You are probably familiar with the general layout, especially in magazines: the hero of the story goes out, hunts the trophy animal, has fun, eventually gets a chance of it, and then goes home. The Man-Eaters of Tsavo has this character in between its covers, but there is a story that goes with the hunting story and that entwines the



hunt with the hero's job and entraps the reader and draws him deeply into the underlying story. The hunts are interesting, but the storyline draws one in and makes The Man-Eaters of Tsavo more than just another book with a series of short stories about hunting.

Lt. Colonel J. H. Patterson wrote The Man-Eaters of Tsavo in 1907. The book is one of the first hunting stories, as we know them today, with minute details described and explained concerning the stalks, encounters, and the inevitable kill. The Man-Eaters of Tsavo is primarily the accounting of his adventures in Africa and the encounters with wild animals when he was in charge of a crew building a railroad in Tsavo. Tsavo is a region of Kenya located at the crossing of the Uganda Railway over the Tsavo River. The word Tsavo means "a place of slaughter". The book clearly shows why such a name is fitting.

The Man-Eaters of Tsavo has stood the test of time is a moderately well-known book. It has a storyline that was strong enough to merit the creation of a movie based on the book. This movie was released in 1996 and was called The Ghost and the Darkness. The book is a captivating story of a struggle between man and beast while at the same time being an intriguing lesson in history. Colonel Patterson did a excellent job on the recounting of his adventures. I found The Man-Eaters of Tsavo to be an interesting book and would strongly encourage people to read it.

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Mat-Su College: Poetry in Action

"Forward Never Straight"
By David Johnson

Treat education as employment
Class applies to bring enjoyment.

It's our job to learn the matter
Each will make our wallet fatter

Not dispersed in cash to plunder
But the quenching of our wonder

Working harder to get smarter
Growing knowledge for a starter

Think solution to pollution
Save the world? Green Revolution!

We endeavor to be noble
Three things seeking efforts global

Feed the masses add production
Increase yield and waste reduction

Stopping war with law and order
Invisible line now the border

Works to do hands are idle
Mass increased the future vital

We are you sharing the knowing
The Carbon Crew ideas growing

People fed up with all the talking
Global movement walks the walking

We need clean air the birds and bees
Emotions clean oceans and trees

Together we all can be the solution
Educate Peaceful Green Revolution

"Spirit Man"
By: Joe Sr.

This body is the house of sin
Within this body is a spirit man
The world condemns the house of sin
The Holy Spirit saves the man within

Welcome to Dragon Radio

By Jake Magoon

Do you enjoy things like music, contests, and fun? A recently conducted unscientific survey showed that 99 out of 100 people also enjoy fun. If you think you could be one of those 99 out of 100, I am pleased to announce some fantastic news!

If you or anyone you know would enjoy the prospect of having a radio station which takes YOUR input seriously in regards to the songs played, or if you'd like to jumpstart a career in radio, you should know that Mat-Su College is currently in the beginning stages of establishing our very own radio station.

While this will be contingent upon an increase to the student activity fee, our current fee has not been raised since the 1980s, and once brought into harmony with other Alaskan schools, will be able to support something you can enjoy and in which you will have a say! Music, live performances, contests, announcements…all we ask is that you have fun, get excited, and think BIG…because we may have our very own radio station by the upcoming fall semester.

If you think you might be interested, stop by the student government office, or show up to meetings of the Mat-Su Monitor in room 122 Snodgrass on Wednesdays at 4:00 pm.

Interested in bringing a radio station to Mat-Su College?
Voice support at Mat-Su Monitor Meetings, Wednesdays in SNOD 212 at 4:00 P.M.

"I WOULD LET YOU IN, BUT THE BIG GUY POSTED A PIC LAST WEEK AND YOU DIDN'T LIKE OR COMMENT AND HE'S STILL IRKED."
Melissa Gianopoulos 4/6/12

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Music Man Sterling Bass
- Sunburst
- Made in the USA
- Excellent Condition
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Fender USA Stratocaster
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